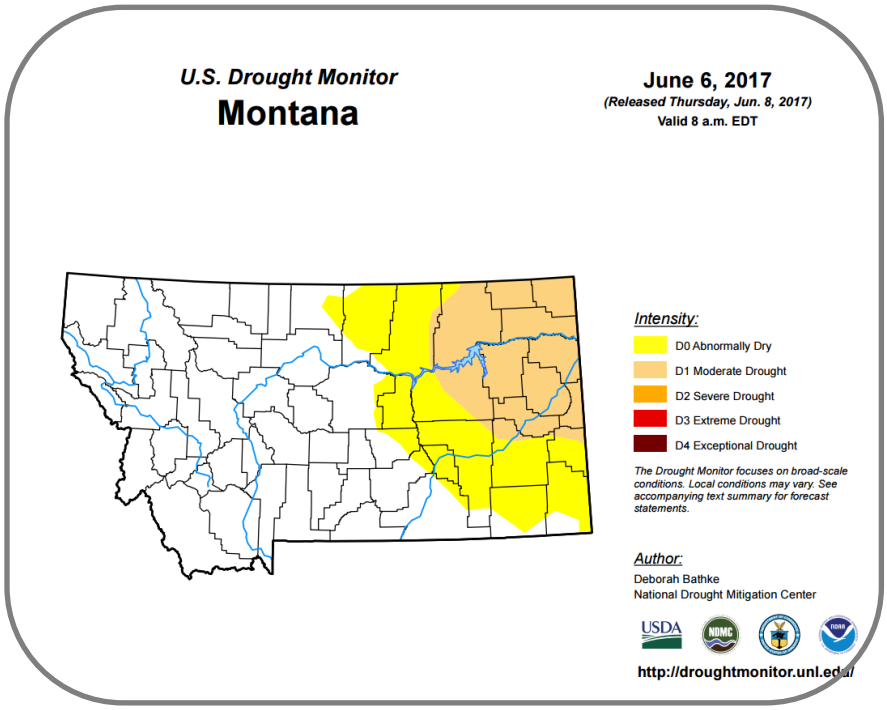
Montana — *May 2017 Drought Conditions*



The U.S. Drought Monitor, is a weekly map of drought conditions produced jointly by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the National Drought Mitigation Center (NDMC) at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. The U.S. Drought Monitor website is hosted and maintained by the NDMC. http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu

Highlights for the State

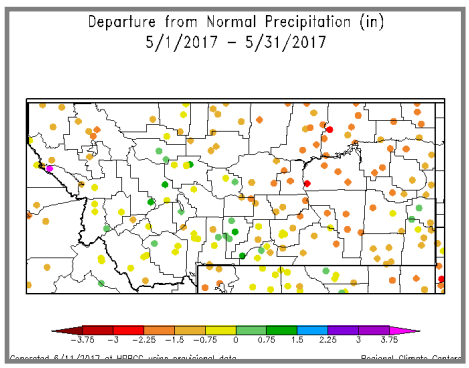
May brought a sharp change in conditions in the eastern part of Montana. As early as April 30th reports of exceptionally dry conditions started coming in from Daniels, Sheridan, Roosevelt, McCone, Richland, Dawson, and Prairie counties. Drought concern was elevated in Wibaux and Fallon Counties and spread to encompass the eastern third of the state. The main cause for the dramatic shift was a combination of low precipitation, high temperatures and wind. Producers reported culling herds, 20% of average crop starts, and nonexistent native pastureland. While the last few years have seen good precipitation in this part of the state, surface moisture depletion during the spring planting season has had dramatic impacts on the local economy and many are comparing it to the last drought period of 1988. Judith Basin and Fergus, as well as Silver Bow and Jefferson counties also continue to be monitored closely for drought conditions.

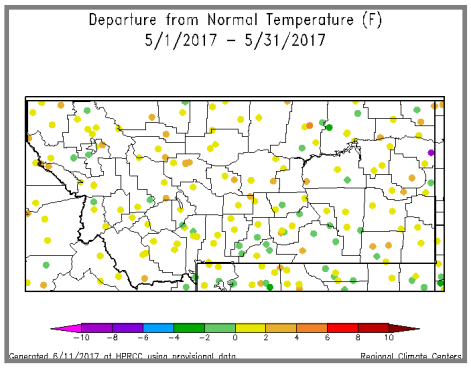
According to the June 1st NRCS Montana Water Supply Outlook Report, "Snowpack totals for June 1st are … above [to] well above for this date in most of the Montana river basins, only a few low elevation ranges in the central part of the state continue to have below normal snowpack." Of particular concern are the Headwaters of the Missouri (77% of normal) and the Smith-Judith-Musselshell (64% of normal).

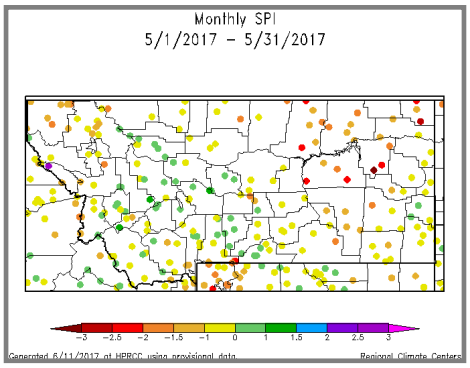
Reservoirs remain normal for this time of year.

Montana — *Climate Overview for Last 30 Days*

Temperature and Precipitation Anomalies







PERIOD	PRECIP	20TH CENTURY AVERAGE	DEPARTURE	RANK	WETTEST/DRIEST SINCE	RECORD
May 2017 1-month period	1.54" (39.12 mm)	2.42" (61.47 mm)	-0.88" (-22.35 mm)	21st Driest	Driest since: 2009	1937
				103rd Wettest	Wettest since: 2016	1927
	Ties: 1969					

May 2017 saw below average precipitation for most of the eastern half of the state for the period of record (1895-2017). May was the 21st driest in 122 years of record and the driest since 2009.

Temperatures over the 30-day period were slightly above normal across the state.

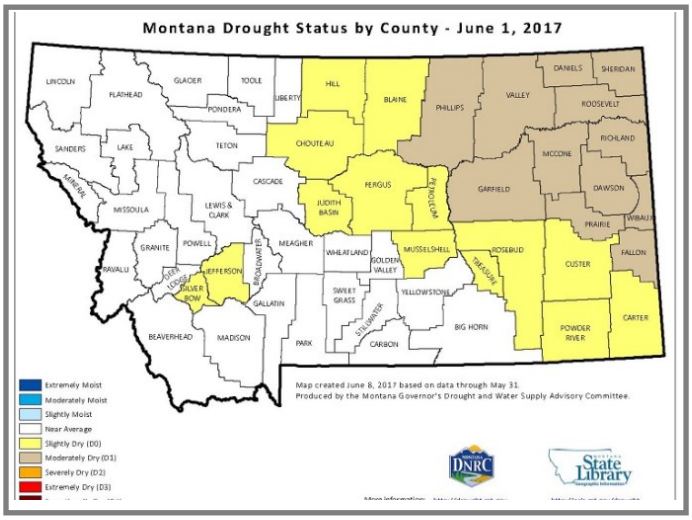
Contact: Ada Montague
(amontague@mt.gov)

Montana — *Drought Indicators*

Montana Drought Status by County

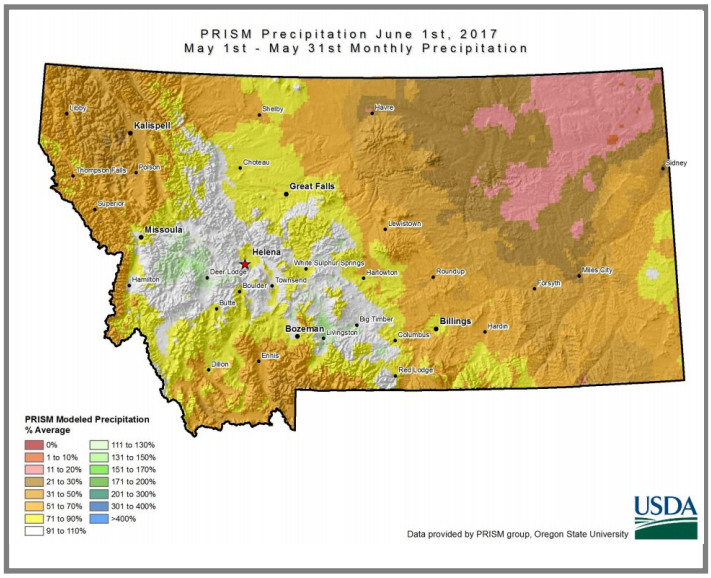
The Montana Drought Status by County is a monthly assessment tool used to monitor the moisture at a county level for the state. Temperature, precipitation, snowpack, reservoirs status, surface water gages, groundwater, crop reports, and field reports are compiled to create this map. To see a historical record go here: https://mslservices.mt.gov/Geographic_Information/Maps/drought/

Do you have impacts to report? We need your on-the-ground reports and you can send them to amontague@mt.gov



Water Resources

The big news for May was low precipitation across the state. Areas saw as little as 11-20% of average precipitation during a month that typically is very wet. A few places in Richland, Roosevelt, and Daniels counties saw as little as 1-10% of average precipitation. The lack of rainfall impacted the ability of producers to plant and grow crops, especially in the northeast.



Montana — *Short– and Long-term Outlooks*

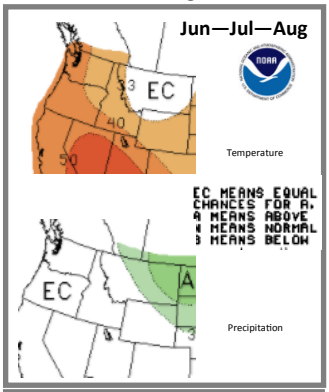
Weather and Drought Outlooks

For the next month there are equal chances of above, normal, or below average temperatures for the majority of the state. There is a 33% chance of above average temperatures for the south and southeast. Precipitation for the majority of the state holds a 33-40% probability of being above average.

Looking further out, the Jul-Aug-Sep period shows a 33% chance of above average temperatures for the most western and southeastern edges of the state, while the rest of the state has equal chances of above, below or normal temperatures. There is a 33-40% chance of above average precipitation for the eastern two thirds of the state.

Although there is less certainty when looking at predictions beyond the next three months, both temperatures and precipitation rates are expected to be above average.

Drought conditions are expected to increase in the northern plains and should remain closely monitored in 2017. Read the National Drought Mitigation Center's Drought and Climate for May 2017 Report to learn more.



Need a Forecast?

Visit your local National Weather Service Weather Forecast Office for the most up-to-date forecast at: http://www.weather.gov

Stay Tuned and In Touch

The next Montana Drought Impacts and Outlook Summary will be released around July 15th. If you need information in the meantime, please reach out to any of the partners listed to the right or contact Ada Montague directly at amontague@mt.gov.

Read the NOAA National Drought Overview at: https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/sotc/drought/201611#detailed-discussion

Heard Around the State

The Northeast is exceptionally dry with many producers calling for emergency assistance. The Roosevelt County Commissioners submitted a request to Governor Bullock for a USDA Drought Designation. The Governor's Drought and Water Supply Advisory Committee will consider drought declarations for several counties in the Northeast at its next meeting on June 20, 2017 from 9-11am. Watch it live here: http://stream.vision.net/MT-gov/

Partners

Montana State Climate Office
www.climate.umt.edu
National Weather Service
Great Falls Weather Forecast Office
www.wrh.noaa.gov/tfx/
Missoula Weather Forecast Office
www.wrh.noaa.gov/mso/
Billings Weather Forecast Office
www.wrh.noaa.gov/byz/
Natural Resource Conservation Service, Snow Survey and Water Supply Forecasting
www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/mt/snow/
Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology
data.mbmg.mtech.edu/mapper/
Montana State Library
mslservices.mt.gov
United States Geologic Survey
http://wy-mt.water.usgs.gov/
Bureau of Reclamation, AGRImet
www.usbr.gov/pn/agrimet/h2ouse.html
National Agricultural Statistics Service
www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Montana/

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